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Montana and the Sky

MDT Department of Transportation – Aeronautics Division Vol. 46 No. 7 July 1995

Aeronautics Board Meets

The Montana Aeronautics Board conducted a meeting June 2 at the Yellowstone Airport. The meeting was scheduled to coincide with the opening of the airport for the season. A "kick-off" reception hosted by SkyWest-Delta Connection and Delta Air Lines held at the airport was enjoyed by the Aeronautics Board and staff, airline representatives, West Yellowstone officials and airport tenants.

Skywest Airlines provides seasonal service at the Yellowstone Airport from June 1–September 30 of each year.

The Board received reports on the loan/grant program, airport/airways bureau, yellowstone airport, safety and education bureau, and budget.

Other business included updates on the essential air service program and the possible base closure at Malmstrom Air Force Base.

Board member, Byron Bayers, briefed the Board on the FAA/GA Committee that had been formed to improve relations between the two. A meeting was held in Helena with good participation and dialogue being shared.

JoAnn Eisenzimer, aviation education representative, reported on the activities and programs being conducted around the state and, presented 1995 aviation/aerospace education goals.

Discussions with members of the West Yellowstone Airport Advisory Board included: national park admissions, future developments in the community, possibility of maintaining a year round airport operation and current airline schedules and traffic at the airport.

The Board enjoyed a viewing of Yellowstone at the Imax Theater. The theater is housed with the Grizzly Discovery Center and has been operational for a little under one year.

The next meeting of the Aeronautics Board is scheduled for September 8 at 10 am in Helena.

Top Ten List of Lies in Aviation

1. I only need glasses for reading.
2. Sure I can fly it—it has wings, doesn't it?
3. Pardon me, ma'am, I seem to have lost my jet keys.
4. I have no interest in flying for the airlines.
5. All that turbulence spoiled my landing.
6. I've got the traffic in sight.
7. Don't worry about the weight and balance—it'll fly.
8. If we get a little lower I think we'll see the lights.
9. I'm 22, got 6000 hours, a four-year degree and 3000 hours in a Lear.
10. No need to look that up, I've got it all memorized.

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Administrator's Column

Condolences: It came as a tremendous surprise to the Montana aviation community to learn that Jim Damron "went West" on July 6th while in Arlington Heights near Chicago. Since moving to Columbus, Montana, in 1967, Jim has been very active in general aviation activities. Each year he has helped us with our annual Aviation Conference as a speaker as well as participating in the youth career awareness program. Jim has served on the Columbus airport board and been a leader in the Columbus airport project which will result in a new badly needed airport. Jim was a Captain for United Airlines and even though he flew professionally for his living, he couldn't wait to get home so he could go flying in one of his three (PA-18, Baby Ace, Fly Baby) small airplanes. He truly loved to fly, he was a true "Aviator." A very touching funeral was conducted at the Columbus airport where his family, loved ones, and many friends gathered to pay tribute to Jim's life and give him a tearful Cub missing man formation send-off. On behalf of the Montana Aeronautics Board and Division and Montana's entire aviation community, I'd like to extend our sincere condolences to Jim's family and fiancee Mary Morris. Jim will be sorely missed! A complete obituary will be included in next month's edition of Montana and the Sky.

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Butte FSS to Close: The FAA is scheduled to close the Butte Flight Service Station on July 26, 1995 and transfer services to the Great Falls consolidated FSS. This will be a great loss to those flying into the Butte airport. The FAA promise of "equal to or better service" is not possible when the FSS people are not actually at the airport.

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Independent FAA Support Grows: Representatives John Duncan of Tennessee and Jim Lightfoot of Iowa have gained more support for their bill (HR1392) to remove the FAA from the DOT and return it to an independent agency. The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association have strongly embraced the support action recently taken by the National Air Transportation Associations (NATA) Board of Director's unanimous endorsement of the bill. The AOPA, General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) and the National Business Aircraft Association (NBAA) have previously endorsed the bill. AOPA President Phil Boyer stated the proposal demonstrates that "key members of Congress have concluded corporatization or privatization will not solve FAA's problems, nor protect the safety concerns of the flying public," and that this legislation "will return FAA to its proper status as an independent agency once again actively working for the improvement of US aviation and aviation safety." NATA President James Coyne agreed with Boyer and stated "by removing the FAA from the politically motivated Department of Transportation, the agency will be able to respond to the interests of all aviation business and allow for a truly modernized ATC system". GAMA President Ed Stimpson said GAMA is "highly supportive" of the bill. "This is a big step forward. With the fact that these two leaders are working towards an independent FAA it appears there is a real chance it will be done." NBAA vice president of government and public affairs Pete West stated that NBAA also is "strongly supportive of the basic concept." If you have strong feelings over this important issue, you should let our Montana Congressional delegation know. Congressman Pat Williams at 800-332-6177, Senator Max Baucus at 800-332-6106, Senator Conrad Burns at 800-344-1513.

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OX-5 Aviation Pioneers Meet

At the Idaho Aviation Conference held in Idaho Falls in May, the Big Sky Wing of the OX-5 Aviation Pioneers, consisting of members from Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, held its semi-annual meeting.

In attendance at the meeting were the Montana and Idaho Aeronautics Division Administrators, Mike Ferguson and Bill Cooper.

After WWI, the OX-5 was the only aircraft engine available. Members of the OX-5 organization are those who prior to December 1940 either flew or worked on an OX-5 engine.

The organization is looking to attract more Historian Members. In order to become a Historian Member you must have an interest in preserving the history of aviation.

Pilot Proficiency Review

The Yellowstone Valley Chapter 57 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and Rocky Mountain College Aviation Department are presenting a Pilot Proficiency Review for anyone interested in enhancing the confidence and safety of themselves and area pilots.

The course is being held at Rocky Mountain College-Aviation Center at the corner of August and Rimrock Road. It begins at 7pm on the third Thursday of each month. The first course was held June 15, with course scheduled for July 20, August 17, etc.

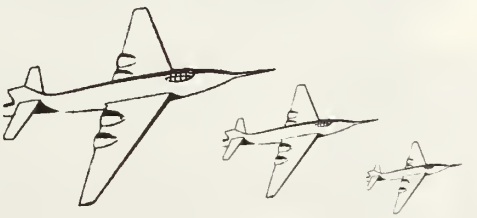
The course is designed to: inform you of FAR changes; review seldom used knowledge; learn more about aircraft systems; study why and how of aerodynamics, etc.

For more information call Bob Kimpton at 259-7010 or Dave Kimball at 657-1060.

Commemoration '95 Airshow

The Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce and Military Affairs Committee is organizing an Airshow to be held at Gallatin Field, Bozeman, on August 20.

The theme for the Airshow will be Commemoration '95, honoring our World War II veterans and the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII.



Featured events will include: US Air Force "THUNDERBIRDS"; US Army "Golden Knights"; Chilean Air Force "Halcones"; Wayne Handley in his mono-wing "Raven"; Otto the Helicopter Clown; and a Long E-Z with the McDevitt Super Pitts.

Static displays will include: KC-135; T-38; F-16; C-130; T-29; and others including numerous antique aircraft.

Gates open at 9:30 am on August 20. Admission will be $6 advance or $8 at the gate. Children six and under and bonafide WWII veterans will be admitted free of charge. Food and drink concessions will be available.

WWII veterans may attend as guests. Send in your full name, address, telephone number, highest military rate/rank attained, accompanied by a copy of your discharge papers/document to verify service during the period of late 1940 to September 1945. Send to the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce (Attn: MAC/Airshow Ticket Chairman) P.O. Box B, Bozeman, MT 59715. A free admission ticket will be mailed back to you upon receiving the above information.

Calendar

July 2–15—CAP's National Cadet Flight Training Encampment, Oshkosh, WI.

July 5–8—Ercoupe Annual Convention, Kalispell, MT.

July 5–9—EAA Northwest Fly-in, Arlington, WA.

July 8–9—Big Sky Alive '95 Air Show, Missoula.

July 8–9—Saskatchewan Air Show, Moose Jaw.

July 8–16—Montana Wing-CAP Cadet Summer Training Encampment, Bridger. Call 2Lt Robert Gilleland at 656-6596.

July 9–15—27th Annual International Cessna Association Convention. Kalispell, MT. Ken Morrow 208-466-1793 or Terry Westphal 406-257-4004.

July 10–14—Aviation Camp, Rocky Mountain College, Grades 6–11. Call 657-1040 or 800-877-6259.

July 13–24—CAP's Montana Wing Cadet Drill Team Training at Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls. Contact 2LT Robert Gilleland at 656-6596.

July 14–16—Schafer Meadows Annual Work Session.

July 15–16—CAP Search and Rescue Exercise, Northern Skies Aviation, Laurel. Contact Major Alan Bentley at 668-7785.

July 20–23—Annual Family Fly-in and Flight Safety Expo, Helena.

July 21–23—QB Rocky Mountain Rendezvous, Jackson Hole, WY.

July 27–August 2—43rd Annual EAA Fly-in Convention, Oshkosh, WI.

July 29–30—CAP's Rocky Mountain Region Conference, Denver.

July 30—Beartooth Composite Squadron's Cadet Orientation Flights, Laurel Airport. Contact 2LT Robert Gilleland at 656-6595.

August 3–6—MAAA Fly-in, Three Forks.

August 6–19—CAP's National Cadet Flight Training Encampment, Oshkosh, WI.

August 11–12—Cheyenne Airport's 75th Anniversary Celebration.

August 19–20—Air Show, Lethbridge Airport, Alberta.

Continued on back page

Seventh Annual Benchmark Work Session

As part of the annual maintenance volunteers change the windsock. Other activities include fencing, campground and trail maintenance, painting.

The Benchmark Airfield received annual maintenance over the Memorial Day weekend. The field is located in the mountains 30 miles west of Augusta.

Loren Smith, center, Great Falls MPA Hangar, provided and prepared dinner for the volunteer workers Saturday evening.

Beef pitch fork fondue was on the menu. A tub filled with hot peanut oil was used as volunteers immersed their meat for eating. The end result.....a wonderful meal enjoyed by all. Thanks Loren!

Mike Ferguson takes advantage of the nice weather and enjoys an early morning shave!

Father's Day Fly-in

Roy Hollandsworth, Lanny Hanson and Frank Bass cook up Frank's special recipe for poorboy sourdough pancakes. Frank serves each year as the gracious host for the annual Father's Day Fly-in.

Aircraft align the Beacon Star Airfield which is located near Lewistown. Folks enjoyed a steak fry Saturday evening, airplane camping and a delicious Sunday morning breakfast .

Marketing and Management of GA Airports

The Krieger Publishing Company has announced the availability of a book titled, *General Aviation Marketing and Management.* The book discusses the principals of marketing and management of general aviation airports and assesses the impacts on the economy from these types of airports. The book describes the "characteristics unique to each market for general aviation aircraft and the important role of the fixed base operator in the marketing process." For more information call (407) 724-9542.

FCC Licensing

(Reprinted with permission from the *High Flyer*, the Vermont Aviation Newsletter)

All aircraft equipped with ELTs require FCC licensing. A case recently came up which resulted in the following information being received from the FCC:

> "The Commission grants one aircraft station license for operation of all aviation services transmitting equipment, including ELTs, on board aircraft. Therefore, in cases where an ELT is the sole radio transmitting device installed on board an aircraft, an FCC aircraft station license is required."

Restriping Your GA Airport?

Is your community planning to restripe its airport this summer? If you are and need to purchase paint, the Aeronautics Division has made arrangements with the Highways Division that will allow your city/county airport to purchase the paint directly from the Highways Division at a substantial savings. If you are interested, please contact Mike Rogan with the Aeronautics Division at 444-2506. He will make arrangements and plans for picking up the paint.

Aircraft Missing, Or Is It?

By: Jeanne Lesnik, Chief
Safety and Education Bureau

Ninety-seven percent of all Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) reports are false alarms — in the United States that is over 600 per month.

Searching for false alarms detracts from the search for a downed aircraft and that aircraft may be yours.

Before start-up and after shut-down, tune your receiver to 121.5. Your ELT may be transmitting. Airport operators can also help identify false signals by periodically selecting the appropriate frequency on their base station radios. Pilots flying enroute should periodically check 121.5 or 243.0 as appropriate for emergency distress signals.

Any pilot receiving an ELT signal should contact Air Traffic Control (ATC) immediately. ATC would then take the appropriate. In some cases an airborne pilot ELT report may generate a search and rescue (SAR) response sooner than if Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) had to wait for a satellite generated alert. In a real emergency, the time savings might be critical.

Checklist for ELTS —(Help Us Help You)

1. Before start-up and after shut-down tune your aircraft receiver to 121.5. Your ELT may be transmitting.
2. If your ELT was on, call your FSS as soon as possible.
3. Check your ELT batteries. Dead batteries will send a distress signal to no one.
4. Disconnect the ELT battery whenever you remove an ELT from an aircraft.

Montana has experienced many false ELTs in the last three months. Thank you to all of our volunteers who have given hours of their time looking for ELTs.

The ELTs have been located in hangars on the airports. Sometimes an ELT has been triggered by a hard landing and the pilot and aircraft continue to fly while the ELT search is all over the valley.

Mark Your Calendars

September 15–17 are the dates for the Pacific Northwest Aviation Convention hosted by the Inland Empire Chapter of the Washington Pilots Association in Spokane. The event will welcome all aviation enthusiasts throughout Washington, the surrounding states and Canada. Convention headquarters will be the Red Lion Inn at I-90 and Sullivan Rd.

Festivities will begin Friday evening with a social at the maintenance building at Felts Field, including dinner, static displays, a nine-piece "big band" orchestra and lots of surprises. The social will be joined by the local EAA chapter.

Saturday's events include the Tactical Weather Seminar presented by the AOPA Air Safety Foundation, Dr. Forest Bird speaking about FAA medical requirements as well as other topics, a GPS seminar, exhibits through which to browse, and a banquet in the evening with Dr. Jerry Cockrell as the featured speaker.

The 99's will present a "Flying Companion Course," and for our non-flying attendees, a spouse/guest program is planned which includes a tour of the Arbor Crest Winery.

Exhibitor space is available. Call Diane Russell at 509-535-0790 for more information.

Ron Mercer, Manager, Helena Regional Airport and Helena Mayor Kay McKenna, participate in the groundbreaking of the Regional Fire Training Center Building to be located on the Helena airport. The building will be completed and occupied late this fall with the entire complex operational in the fall of 1996.

Let's Eat Out!

By: Kas Simpson
(Reprinted with permission from
Our Tahtonka Times)

How would you like to own a restaurant where ingoing customers are greeted by the sight of outgoing customers rubbing their tummys and commenting, "That's the best Mexican meal I have ever eaten!"? Well, that is how my husband, Jay, and I were greeted when we recently went to Doris' Cantina, located in the West Yellowstone airport.

As you enter the Cantina, Doris (who is a 5-foot bundle of energy) gives you a friendly, hearty welcome. Now that is a pretty impressive way to begin eating, but wait, it gets better.

Doris' Cantina serves "authentic, fresh, homemade Tex-Mex cuisine." At most of the restaurants where I have eaten Tex-Mex, the food is so hot that you order one glass of water after another. Not Doris' Cantina. The food has the most wonderful flavor. Doris sends "down south" to Texas for all of her spices. On her many trips to Texas to visit her mother, she will pick up tortillas, chorizo and other authentic Mexican specialties to bring back and serve in her restaurant. Her fajitas are made out of the best quality of steak and chicken. Her sauces are prepared fresh every day from scratch. To insure that her ingredients are only the best, she shops all over the West for her produce and other ingredients.

Doris is not only the greeter, the waitress, the cashier, she is also the chef. She prepares all of the food from scratch, and she does it all by herself. There is no pre-prepared food in this restaurant. Doris does have great support from her husband, Doug, and her children, however.

Doris' day starts at 6am and ends after 10pm and she does this 7 days a week. When I asked her how she is able to keep up her energy level, her comment was "I just love doing this. I have always loved cooking and I like working hard."

The Cantina serves breakfast from 6:30 to 11am. She not only serves the traditional breakfast, but she specializes in "south of the border favorites" such as breakfast tacos, Mexican omelettes, Huevos A La Mexicana, Huevos Rancheros, and all of the other great Mexican breakfasts.

Tuesdays at Doris' Cantina is "Taco Tuesday." Her tacos are only 50 cents a piece. Doris also runs a daily luncheon special for $5.99 from 11am–2pm. Some of the things she features are: a mini dinner, an Enchilada dinner, a Burrito dinner, a Chimichanga dinner and on Friday it is a Seafood Chimi. Listen to the ingredients she puts into this chimi: crab, shrimp, scallops and topped with a cream cheese lemon sauce. Yum, yum.

As Jay and I were leaving Doris', we met a couple entering the restaurant. So we rubbed our tummy and told them that we had just had the "best Mexican meal we had ever eaten!!"

I have gotten hungry just writing this article, so I think I'll just get in my car and find another place to research for the next LET'S EAT OUT!!

Tool Scholarships Awarded

The Montana Aeronautics Division has awarded two $500 Tool Scholarships. The recipients were selected by the Aviation Maintenance Faculty at the College of Technology in Helena. The scholarships are to be used to purchase tools. Both recipients recently received their Airframe and Powerplant Certificates from the College of Technology in Helena.

David Shapiro—has degrees in photography and organic physical chemistry. Commercial Instrument rated and a certificated instrument flight instructor. Specializes in high performance tail dragger aircraft instruction and instrument instruction. Graduated with honors in 1995 from the College of Technology in Helena. Owns a new FBO in Three Forks, Bridger Aviation Services where you can now service your aircraft with fuel 24 hours a day. David's A&P license will put him at work doing what he does best—rebuilding and refurbishing from the ground up. Bridger Aviation performs all general aircraft maintenance.

John Padilla - graduate of Miles City Community College. Served in the Navy. Holds a degree in education from Eastern Montana College. Former educator and coach at Sacred Heart High School in Miles City. Currently owns a Piper Tomahawk, 1958 C-172, two 1941 Stinson 10As and a Volksplane 1. John hopes to continue purchasing old aircraft, fixing them up, playing with them for a short time and then selling them and moving to another project. The name of John's business is "Keep 'Em Flying." John received his A&P license at the College of Technology in Helena, graduating with honors in 1995.

Congratulations and best of luck to David and John!

Pictured from left to right: Phil Vittetoe, Aviation Instructor, College of Technology, Helena; Jeanne Lesnik, John Padilla, David Shapiro and Mike Ferguson.

Calendar

continued from page 3

August 20—Air Show, Gallatin Field, Belgrade.

September 2–4—Annual Labor Day Fly-in, West Yellowstone.

September 2–4—Miles City Great American Cattle Drive Fly-in.

September 8—Aeronautics Board Meeting, Helena.

September 9—EAA Chapter 57 Fly-in, Laurel. Contact Bob Kimpton 259-7010.

September 15–17—MPA Fall Fly-in, Beacon Star.

September 15–17—Washington Pilots Association State Convention, Spokane.

September 24—Beartooth Composite Squadron's Cadet Orientation Flight, Laurel Airport. Contact 2Lt Robert Gilleland at 656-6596.

November 26—Beartooth Composite Squadron's Cadet Orientation Flight, Laurel Airport. Contact 2Lt Robert Gilleland at 656-6596.

Gas Available at Bowman Field

The pumps are fixed! Once again when you stop in to the biggest little airport in southwest Montana (Anaconda, 3U3) you will be able to refuel—100 LL and JET A are available. A single point nozzle is available for JET A if needed.

This spring the fuel farm had a little problem, more than likely caused by lightning. A big thank you goes to Mr. Jim Stuart at the Montana Coyote factory in Helena. After a lot of hard work by himself, the fuel system is back up and running.

Thanks to Jim, and we hope to see you all out flying!

John McPhail
Airport Manager

Thirty-two hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 37¢ each, for a total cost of $1,210. This includes $60 for production, $526 for postage and $624 for printing.

Just A Reminder

Just a reminder that due to a typographical error, the 1995 Montana Airport Directory lists the elevation at the Ennis Big Sky airport as 3382'. This elevation should read 5382'. The division has received numerous calls about this discrepancy and we would like to thank you for the insight. If any other anomalies are detected, the Division would appreciate notification. Thanks!

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